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**Sen. Birkholz: “Meijer gift setting a legacy for future donations;
state policy needs to be implemented”**

LANSING – Sen. Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township, issued the following statement today regarding legislation to rename the White Pine Trail State Park and calling on the DNR to create guidelines for deciding if and how parks are named after individuals:

“While we had the privilege today to honor a great Michigan citizen by naming a state park after him, we also had the opportunity to set in place a provision that requires criteria to be developed should a similar situation be encountered in the future.

“The most important part of the provision is that the guidelines will dictate not just how a park can be named after a private citizen, but if it can be named after them. We need to continue the kind of legacy that Fred Meijer gives this state with a consistent and well-thought-out policy. With this important legislation, we are not opening our park names to be bought; we are setting standards for the state to use in the decision process.”

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